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NPIC/TSSG/RED-044-70
29 January 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Research & Engineering Division, TSSG
SUBJECT : Thoughts On 1540 Light Table Problems

1. I have given considerable thought to the advantages and disadvantages to our becoming involved in building wide planning with regards to equipment and its impact upon the fiscal planning for the building. I feel first of all that this is not R&D planning; this is NPIC planning and as such, the responsibility lies clearly in PPBS. There is obviously a vacuum in this area. While we could in some respects fill this vacuum, I feel sure that we would end up doing a less than adequate job for the following reasons: adequate building plans require access to closely held knowledge in regard to the Center's plans now and in the near future, regarding space, DDI budget, Center personnel plans, PSG computer implementation planning, GSA power air-conditioning, etc., floor loading, IEG and PSG procurement plans and, of course, the characteristics of future equipment, not only those resulting from RED development, but in some cases, off-the-shelf purchases. I think it can readily be seen that the majority of this knowledge lies most readily available to PPBS. Only in the last list item do we have an upper hand in the availability of knowledge. We would have the responsibility, but it would be difficult to obtain the authority and with it the muscle required to obtain this absolutely essential data base. Further, we are talking about part of a system concept for total package planning, when we have no overall plan for the building. Nor, are we permitted to do the system analysis required to lay a foundation.

2. Experience in coordination, discussions, and meetings related to these problems would indicate to me that we are talking about a full time job for one capable individual, and he must be of a high enough grade that people will listen to him and respond. We definitely need long-range building planning, but solution of problems like this are only a small part of the total problem. If we solve this one, we will later have another just like it. I feel that this responsibility should rest in PPBS, if, as their title states, they have a planning responsibility. My first recommendation would be that PPBS accept this major responsibility and apply the talents

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25X1 of a person such as [] to the job; it might be
feasible for us to provide one individual on a yearly rota-
25X1 tion with direct responsibility for this assignment under
[] Second, [] has a certain responsibility
here since production items--once they have been accepted
and have no major radical problems--are turned over to ESD.
However, I have the same reservations you have with regard
to their capability to perform. The other alternative for
us, of course, would be to step into the vacuum, since in one
way or the other we will be blamed if anything goes wrong.
If so, it appears there would be three possible ways of
handling it. They are as follows:

a. One would be to utilize [] in this
responsibility. This has an inherent problem, in that
Harry will not be full time for another year; but he
certainly has the inclination and capability. 25X1

b. In regard to your suggestion that we might
utilize [] has the capacity and, I
am sure, he would do an outstanding job; however, this
could create problems for [] since Homer is now
filling in for the work [] was doing. He has
talents that we badly need in other areas. 25X1
25X1

c. A third possibility and possibly the most encourag-
ing would be to hire the new person that []
mentioned, [] and utilize him in this capacity:
25X1 also, in the area of Systems Analysis--assign him to
25X1 [] In this manner, we could utilize our plan-
ning and applications responsibilities as a wedge to
obtain much needed answers required in operational analysis.
Of course, you would have to hire him first. I do not
see anyone currently attached to Systems Development
Branch who could readily fill this gap without creating
more problems than we would be solving. 25X1


We obviously have a fundamental responsibility to provide
adequate and timely data, on which these planning decisions
can be made. I cannot see, in all honesty, where we really
should have responsibilities pass that point, unless the site
preparation problem is obviously so difficult and intricate

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(in a scientific sense) that engineering talent is required;
e.g., High Precision Stereo Comparator. These are my
thoughts and recommendations on the matter.


Deputy Chief, Research & Engineering Division, TSSG

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